



Media Contact:

Carey Kerns
Champions Public Relations
503-872-4986
ckerns@klcorp.com

Michael Stewart
Ketchum Public Relations
310-295-3323
michael.stewart@ketchum.com

**School Superintendents Overwhelmingly Agree:
Afterschool Programs Raise Student Achievement**

*Champions® and NAA First Annual 'Out-of-School-Time' Survey Reveals
the Importance and Effectiveness of Before- and After-School Programs*

DENVER, Oct. 11, 2011 – A recent survey of elementary and middle school superintendents underscored the importance and benefits that out-of-school time programs offer today's students. The survey, conducted by extended learning provider [Champions®](#) and the [National AfterSchool Association](#) (NAA), explored before- and after-school educational and enrichment programs and superintendents' belief in their effectiveness in improving student performance. In fact, a vast majority – 82 percent – of surveyed school superintendents across the country agreed that educational programs beyond the traditional school day are not only important, but improve learning and social interaction and are highly successful at supplementing in-class curriculum.

“The majority of superintendents surveyed said out-of-school time programs can improve student achievement in important disciplines including math and reading,” said Shelley Lambert, Vice President of Operations, Champions. “The benefits are extremely clear, and we see this demonstrated daily through the Champions Extended Learning™ offerings we provide to more than 400 school sites across the country.”

Improved Performance

Surveyed school superintendents were in near unanimous agreement on the benefits students receive from attending out-of-school time programs:

- Improving in-classroom academic performance **(93%)**
- Improving in-classroom engagement **(92%)**
- Increasing social interaction skills **(92%)**
- Improving study skills **(87%)**
- Improving test scores **(86%)**

Skill Building

Nearly all surveyed superintendents say that out-of-school time programs can improve student skills in important disciplines like math and reading:

- Math **(95%)**
- Reading **(94%)**

Motivations to Offering Programs

Surveyed school superintendents also overwhelmingly agreed on the motivations for offering out-of-school time programs in their districts:

- Improving in classroom performance and/or test scores **(92%)**
- Offering academic opportunities for students **(91%)**
- Providing a safe place for students **(89%)**
- Providing teachers with additional opportunities to engage with students **(84%)**

“The data from our recent survey shows the high value superintendents place on afterschool programs and why they are critical in improving the overall education of students today,” said Dr. Paul Young, President and CEO, National AfterSchool Association. “Yet despite their effectiveness, superintendents in all types of schools face many challenges in offering high-quality, robust afterschool programs for their students. We at the NAA are committed to helping them overcome these challenges.”

Additional Findings

- Additional findings from the Champions and NAA Out-of-School Time Superintendent Survey include:
 - **Three in four** superintendents encourage their principals to work with outside community-based groups or other providers **to offer strong out-of-school time programs (75%)**.
 - Of those that do encourage their principals to work with outside community-based groups, **88 percent say they are effective**.
 - More than **four-fifths** of superintendents say their districts’ out-of-school time programs provide teachers with additional opportunities **to engage with students (84%)**.
 - **61 percent** of superintendents say out-of-school time programs **improve teacher’s in-class performance**.

About the Champions® and NAA Out-of-School Time Superintendent Survey

The phone survey was designed and analyzed by Ketchum Global Research Network and fielded by Braun Research. The survey reached 100 superintendents or associate/assistant superintendents (with a quota of 50 who are 0-40% FRPL) from June 30 – July 18, 2011, and has a margin of error of +/-9.77%.

About the National AfterSchool Association (NAA)

The National AfterSchool Association (www.naaweb.org) is the leading voice of the afterschool profession dedicated to the development, education and care of children and youth during their out-of-school hours. The only professional association in the afterschool field, NAA represents over 8,000 members and 38 state affiliate organizations.

About Champions®

Champions is a leading out-of-school time provider of extended learning and education programs for school-age children. Champions programs are offered at more than 400 sites in 19 states. For more information, visit www.discoverchampions.com.